



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First,  
Second, and Third Tuesday  
of each month

**Regular Meeting**

County Courthouse,  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

**May 5, 2009**

<b>Flash Drive</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>#1003</b>
<b>Minute Orders</b>	<b>M09-86</b>	<b>M09-99</b>
<b>Resolutions</b>	<b>R09-19</b>	<b>R09-19</b>
<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Ord09-01</b>	<b>Not used</b>

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Reid

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Farnetti

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

*No one spoke.*

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Supervisor Bauer:**

1. April 22: Attended the June Lake Chamber meeting; a majority voted to put \$5,000 into a fund for the visitors' center.
2. Attended the first CPT blueprint meeting; pertains to visitor transportation. [Eastern Central California Blueprint and Corridor Enhancement Plan for 395 to consider the corridor's future in terms of economics, tourism and viability.]
3. June Lake Trails CAC is moving forward; working on getting permits.
4. Fishing opener was successful.
5. Sally Miller has found a peak situated entirely in Mono County to name after Andrea Lawrence. Bauer will work with the family before moving forward.
6. Buck McKeon has requested forms for reauthorizing the transportation process. Bauer submitted the forms, and requested forms from Senators Feinstein's and Boxer's offices. Reauthorization will probably be delayed.
7. Attended the Mammoth Lakes Chamber meeting.
8. Threw the first pitch out at Little League on Sunday.
9. Tim Alpers is back in the hospital.

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**Supervisor Farnetti:**

1. Out of town from April 24 until May 4; nothing to report.

**Supervisor Hazard:**

1. April 21: The Board's evening meeting in Crowley Lake (to discuss Rock Creek Ranch) was cancelled, but a meeting with staff was conducted and a few people attended. Issues regarding a foot path and additional access to communities are being reviewed. Several issues should be resolved prior to the public hearing on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. April 24: Met with Dan Lyster and DWP to discuss an ordinance regarding Crowley Lake; County Counsel is working on the ordinance. Also discussed progress of the Conway ditch; the number one issue is FERC licensing.
3. May 1: Missed office hours in Benton due to illness.

**Supervisor Hunt:**

1. Spent a week in Mexico; returned yesterday. Nothing to report.

**Chairman Reid:**

1. Out of town last week.
2. Attended the CPT meeting; John Helm gave a short-range view of the transit plan.
3. Received a letter from the state parks office addressed to John Crowe, a concessionaire on Mono Lake. Crowe has decided not to renew his contract.
4. Bridgeport Visitor's Center is moving forward; the projected opening date is July 1.
5. Memorial Hall is being prepared for painting.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

- 1) **CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)**  
Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

**David Wilbrecht:**

1. Will be out of the state next Monday and Tuesday.
2. Met with John Helm about space issues in the Walker Senior Center; will relocate ESTA drivers to another area in the building.
3. Continuing to hold status meetings. Currently working on an employee recognition program.
4. Spoke with the PUC about issues concerning Verizon.
5. Working with the Planning and Building offices on issues concerning Mr. Drell's permits.
6. Working on re-tooling purchasing procedures; will be reviewing the rules pertaining to local preferences.
7. The fire access corridor is a big project.
8. Working with Public Works about events permits.

- 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- M09-86**      **A. Approve minutes of the regular meeting held April 14, 2009.**  
**Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Hazard abstain**

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**M09-87**

B. Approve minutes, as corrected, of the regular meeting held April 21, 2009.  
**Hazard/Hunt, 5-0**

Corrections made by Supervisor Bauer: 1) Board Report—***ESTA has repaid most of the line of credit.*** 2) Discussion regarding wellness report, Item #12a (last paragraph)—“Consensus is to resubmit this issue...” changed to ***“Board decided to resubmit this issue...”***.

Closed Session: 9:03 a.m.  
Break: 9:39 a.m.  
Reconvened: 9:43 a.m.  
Break: 10:34 a.m.  
Reconvened: 10:42 a.m.  
Break: 11:47 a.m.  
Reconvened: 11:53 a.m.  
Break: 12:30 p.m.  
Reconvened: 1:30 p.m.  
Adjourn: 2:24 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

***The Board had nothing to report from closed session.***

**COUNTY COUNSEL**

- 3a) Conference with Labor Negotiators - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: Bob Garrett, Rick Scholl, Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, and Brian Muir. Employee Organization: Deputy Sheriffs' Association.
- 3b) Conference with Real Property Negotiators - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: APN 3501063. Agency negotiators: Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, and Brian Muir. Negotiating parties: Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.
- 3c) Conference with Real Property Negotiators - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Properties: APNs 0237002 and 0236128. Agency negotiators: Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, and Brian Muir. Negotiating parties: Mono County and the Antelope Valley Fire Protection District. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES**

**Dr. Johnson:**

1. Working hard on the flu event which now involves 21 countries. California has almost 200 confirmed laboratory cases so far. There has not been an increase in severity of the illness; Mono County does not have the need to declare a local emergency. There may be a second wave of this flu in the fall; it is not known if there will be a vaccine by that time. This has not been as severe as the seasonal flu, but it is not possible to

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predict what will happen in a few months. Coordination between agencies is working. Decisions about school closures will be made locally; when people are sick they should stay home. This is an opportunity to be prepared.

**Sheriff Scholl:**

1. Provided additional help at Crowley Lake for the fishing opener; many boats were taken out of perilous situations. The boating program is going well.
2. A small plane crashed last week; two people were killed. The crash was located by the air force; the bodies have been recovered. Cause of the crash is not known at this time.
3. Jim Wright, a long-time member of the search and rescue, passed away of a heart condition about two weeks ago.

**Rick McManis:**

1. State Building Code changes will be adopted in July 2010 and will take effect January 2011. Emergency codes will take effect August 1, 2009: a code concerning Americans with Disability Act and new energy codes. McManis will start educating local contractors this month. Residential fire suppression system standards will be incorporated into the codes. The Office of the State Fire Marshall has started doing fire-life safety inspections in Mono County.

**Brian Muir:**

1. MegaBytes system is being implemented; the transition between systems has caused some delays with apportionments. However, once the software is fully implemented, the process will be faster, and tax bills will provide more information.
2. The bond insurer for the County, ACA, is no longer rated. This should not impact the County, however, since it is the County's credit rating that is reviewed and not the bond insurer.
3. Muir will present a financial management report to the Board in the near future.

**Evan Nikirk:**

1. Provided an update on the status of projects discussed at the last meeting:
  - o air conditioner for IT server room has been installed
  - o started irrigation on exterior of fence at Walker ball field
  - o received bids for exterior work at Bridgeport Senior Center
  - o gave contractor notice to proceed on Walker Community Center work
  - o irrigation contracts for Lee Vining and Crowley Lakes community centers
  - o work on Crowley Lake ball field progressing
  - o Gull Lake fence waiting for hardware

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

***Item 4b pulled for comment***

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

- 4a) Agreement for Reimbursement Pursuant to Section 1631g of the Social Security Act - Agreement between the California Department of Social Services and the County of Mono.

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- M09-88**      **Action:** Authorize Chair to sign the agreement with California Department of Social Services to allow for reimbursement to the County of Mono for Interim Assistance provided to individuals pending application of Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment.  
**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**

- 4b)            MOU between The California Statewide Automated Welfare System and County of Mono - Amendment #2 permits the transfer of certain Consortium assets to Mono County and offers the county the option to request separate services.

- M09-89**      **Action:** Approve and authorize Chair to sign Amendment #2 of the MOU between the California Statewide Automated Welfare System Consortium IV and the County of Mono.  
**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**  
Supervisor Hazard: Asked about the equipment exchange associated with this MOU, and expressed concern about security of information. Ed Zylman: This contract updates the initial MOU, and expands the ability of counties to get equipment cheaper. The County can purchase some of the equipment, but it is better to trade it in. The information on the computers is state welfare information so is covered by confidentiality laws.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 5a)            Approval of Fish & Game Fine Fund Expenditure to Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care - Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care, a local non-profit organization, has requested a donation from both Inyo and Mono counties' Fish & Game Propagation Fund (aka Fish & Game Fine Fund ). The amount requested from each county is twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

- M09-90**      **Action:** Approve the request for an expenditure of \$2,500 from the Fish & Game Fine Fund to Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care to assist in the purchase of food, medical supplies, cages, etc.  
**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- 6a)            FY08-09 RSTP Road Funding Agreement - Consider and potentially approve County entry into the annual Federal Exchange and State Match Agreement for allocation of Federal Surface Transportation Program Funds through the State's Regional Surface Transportation Program.

- M09-91**      **Action:** Approve and authorize Chair's signature on the FY08-09 Federal Exchange and State Match Agreement for allocation of Federal Surface Transportation Program Funds through the State's Regional Surface Transportation Program.

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**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- 7a) Black Point Cinder Mine - The issue pertaining to the proposed supplemental Plan of Operations for the Black Point Cinder Mine (Black Point) was discussed by the Board at their April 14th meeting. The Chair subsequently signed a letter on behalf of the Board supporting the continued operation of Black Point. The deadline to submit the letter was April 15, 2009.

**M09-92      Action:** Ratify letter dated April 14, 2009, addressed to Jon Regelbrugge, District Ranger, Inyo National Forest, signed by Chairman Bill Reid, pertaining to Black Point Cinder Mine.  
**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**

- 7b) Proclamation regarding Silver Star Banner Day - Request from Kathy Landess, on behalf of The Silver Star Families of America, asking the Board to adopt a proclamation recognizing May 1, 2009, as Silver Star Banner Day. Chairman Bill Reid asked for this item to be agendized.

**M09-93      Action:** Adopt proclamation.  
**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)**

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

**CLERK-RECORDER**

- 8a) Letter regarding Mono County Little League - Letter from Larry Johnston, President, Mono County Little League, thanking the Board of Supervisors for the contribution of \$3,600.
- 8b) Southern California Edison--Rate Increase - Documents from Southern California Edison pertaining to a proposed rate increase.
- 8c) Email letter from Connie Black - Email letter addressing temporary relief of new building construction fees for new or redevelopment, and reduction or elimination of affordable housing requirements for new or redevelopment construction.

***The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.***

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## FINANCE

- 9a) Veterans Services (**Yvette Mason**) - Presentation by Yvette Mason, Veterans' Services Claims Representative, regarding her activities and the services available for veterans in Mono County.

**Action:** Receive presentation, and provide any desired direction to staff.

Yvette Mason, Inyo Mono County Veteran Services Office: Gave a PowerPoint presentation about the organization, its mission, purpose, available benefits, services, and outreach efforts. She provided information about the veteran population, statistics about advocacy services provided, a comparison of workload between counties, Mono County VA benefits obtained, and outlined state funding.

Mason answered questions from the Board:

Outreach is by appointment only due to budget constraints. With this change, outreach has become more effective. Children of service-connected veterans can get a college waiver if they are going to school in California; there are income requirements. The newsletter published by the Veteran Services Office is a contact tool and helps bring vets in to the office.

Supervisor Hazard: Working on getting a veteran appreciation sign installed along Highway 395. Jeff Walters will follow up with CalTrans.

- 9b) Mammoth Lakes Swim Team (**Brian Muir**) - Consider contributing \$3,000 to support the Mammoth Lakes Swim Team.

**M09-94 Action:** Approve \$3,000 contribution to Mammoth Lakes Swim Team.  
**Farnetti/Hunt, 5-0**

Brian Muir: Received a letter from Mammoth Lakes Swim Team requesting financial support in the current fiscal year.

Rob Weber, president of the swim team:

- This is a good program that includes children from 4 to 18 years old.
- The program has two full-time coaches and swim meets throughout the summer.
- Through this program, participants learn a life-long skill.
- Even though the Town will contribute \$2,500, this year the Town is charging the team \$3,000 for use of the swimming pool at Whitmore Park.
- The swim team is a non-profit group and does not turn away any kids. Requests for scholarships have increased from two requests in the past to ten requests this year.
- Parents are required to help clean the facility.
- The swim team will be the sole users of the pool until it officially opens.

### Answers to Questions from the Board

- The County contributes about \$100,000 to Whitmore Park and swimming pool. (The request from the swim team raised a question about the County's overall support of the facility.)
- The swim team does outreach to the middle part of the County and mails flyers to schools. Information is also found online.
- In years past high school students received PE credit for swimming in the summer, but the school no longer allows this.

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Board Comments

- All Board Members support this program.
- Future requests should be included in the regular budget cycle.
- A yearly process could be implemented whereby youth organizations are invited to come before the Board with their requests.
- Supervisor Hunt suggested agendizing a review of current funding for Whitmore Park and swimming pool.
- Supervisor Hazard said staff needs to review the County's overall parks program.

9c) Mammoth Youth Soccer Organization (**Brian Muir**) - Consider contribution of \$3,000 to support the Mammoth Youth Soccer Organization

**M09-95**      **Action:** Approve contribution of \$3,000 to support the Mammoth Youth Soccer Organization.  
**Hunt/Hazard, 5-0**

Brian Muir: Received a request for \$3,000 to support the Mammoth Youth Soccer Organization.

Stuart Brown:

- Mammoth AYSO spans the County from Crowley to Lee Vining, and attracts 360-400 kids.
- The program has a deficit. Fees for registration (\$50) are half of national fees, so the program subsidizes each participant, plus purchases the equipment. This is a budget challenge, therefore the organization has requested funding from the Town and County.
- The Town does not charge for use of the playing field.
- The team is being proactive to raise funds in other ways, but they are receiving less money from the community.
- The funding will be used for the kids. Approximately 100 volunteers help with the program.
- Will be working to get the Lee Vining kids involved. Travel presents a problem. Currently there are not enough participants for a north county team.

Board Comments

- All Board Members support this program.
- Future requests should be included in the regular budget cycle.
- The organization should consider a broader name to encompass more of the County.
- The organization should discuss the possibility of using the County park system so they can move into tournament play.
- The organization should consider the potential of the outlying communities to form a team and have local practices.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Additional Departments:** County Counsel

10a) Ordinance Restricting Construction of Wells within Service Areas of Public Water Systems (**Louis Molina, Environmental Health Director**) - Presentation by Environmental Health Director Louis Molina regarding input provided by the Regional Planning Advisory Committees (RPACs) on a proposed ordinance that

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would restrict the construction of wells within the service areas of public water systems in the County.

**M09-96**

**Action:** Direct staff to revise the ordinance such that it would apply only to those public water systems whose governing boards have formally and successfully asked the Board of Supervisors to make the ordinance effective within the respective boundaries of those systems; and to return that revised ordinance to the Board for its consideration.

**Bauer/Hazard, 5-0**

Louis Molina:

- The Board discussed the proposed ordinance last November at a meeting in Chalfant; these residents opposed the ordinance. At that time, the Board directed staff to attend RPAC meetings and obtain community feedback.
- Staff met with several RPACs; meetings were mostly attended by RPAC board members.
- Support for the ordinance varied: North County residents were more against the ordinance (in principle); South County tended to be more neutral or in favor of the ordinance.
- Asked other counties if they have a similar ordinance. Out of the 17 that responded, 14 do not have an ordinance.

Allen Berrey:

- The Board asked County Counsel's Office to determine how to make the ordinance more community specific. This could be done through zoning, but zoning presents problems with identifying properties subject to the ordinance.
- Alternatives: 1) The ordinance could take effect in a public water system when the governing board chooses to be subject to it; however, this would delegate the power of the Board of Supervisors. 2) A better alternative is to have a water board make a request to the Board of Supervisors. For example, the water board would make the decision to be subject to the ordinance, make a request to the Board, and then the Board of Supervisors could approve the request. This would allow the Board of Supervisors to review the merits of the request and consider whether or not the water system is in compliance.
- Berrey mentioned that because the Bridgeport PUD has their own well, they can adopt restrictions within their own boundaries.

Board Discussion

- Supervisor Bauer: June Lake cannot adopt restrictions because they don't have a public well, it is surface water; the local water board is working to get a well. Bauer supported Berrey's alternative #2 above, and asked to have the ordinance state in the title that this is a community-based request process.
- Supervisor Hazard: People in his communities do not support a county-wide ordinance, but do support a community specific solution.
- Supervisors Farnetti, Hunt and Reid: Support a community-specific solution, and agreed with Berrey's alternative #2.
- Supervisor Reid: Suggested that the ordinance sunset after the June Lake well is installed.

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## PUBLIC WORKS

- 11a) Request for Snow Removal Assistance - Yosemite National Park (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive staff report regarding a request from the National Park Service to assist with snow removal operations to open Highway 120 access through Yosemite National Park. Consider and potentially adopt a resolution authorizing County entry into an agreement with the National Park Service to assist with said snow removal.
- R09-19**      **Action:** Adopt **Resolution R09-19**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Authorizing the Public Works Director to Execute and Administer Cooperative Agreements and to Utilize Department of Public Works Personnel and Equipment to Assist with Snow Removal Activities Associated with the 2009 Opening of Highway 120 Within Yosemite National Park."  
**Hazard/Bauer, 5-0**
- Jeff Walters: Contacted by CalTrans a month ago about helping with snow removal; however, they are making progress and believe they are on schedule to open by Memorial Day weekend. CalTrans would not require County services unless there is a significant snowfall. Walters suggested having the resolution in place in case assistance is needed. This snow removal effort would benefit the County since CalTrans provides avalanche training. The cost to the County would be approximately \$10,000.
- Supervisor Farnetti: Would like this to be a separate line item in the budget and not tied to the road fund.
- 11b) Banner Management Assistance (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive staff report regarding banner management in the communities of Bridgeport, June Lake, and Lee Vining for special events throughout the year. Provide any desired direction to staff.
- M09-97**      **Action:** Authorize the Department of Public Works to provide County staff and equipment necessary for annual special event banner management in the communities of Bridgeport, June Lake, and Lee Vining.  
**Bauer/Hazard, 5-0**
- Jeff Walters: A request came from June Lake to assist with hanging banners for opening of fishing season; the request was expanded to include helping hang banners throughout the year. This raised a question about assisting with banners in Bridgeport and Lee Vining. Walters said this assistance would not significantly impact the department's workload throughout the year.
- Supervisor Bauer: Communities would need to understand that if conditions change in the County, this service may stop.
- Supervisor Reid: Supports this service for communities.

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 12a) Mono County Recreation Access Tool (**John Wentworth and Bill Taylor (MLTPA) and Paul McFarland (Friends of the Inyo)**) - Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT) proposed by the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation and the Friends of the Inyo to take the first steps in developing a comprehensive inventory of the points of access to recreation amenities in Mono County.

**M09-98 Action:** Approve the project in concept; approve funding for Phase 1 up to \$15,000, to be taken from the contingency fund absent any other funding sources; direct this project back to the round-table partners and County staff to consider other funding sources.  
**Hazard/Bauer, 4-1; Farnetti voted no**

John Wentworth and Paul McFarland gave a PowerPoint presentation:

- The purpose of the project is to focus on recreation in Mono County.
- There are points of departure to access recreation areas, and the project would create baseline data to assist with planning efforts, transportation infrastructure, environmental management, funding opportunities, and public outreach.
- Phase 1 would establish the GIS database and document public transportation systems. Phase 2 would verify the information in the database through public outreach in the field, and meeting with the RPACs. Phase 3 would meld Phases 1 and 2 into a final geo-database.
- The database could be an economic development tool by assisting visitors with planning trips to the area.
- Cost could be reduced by involving County staff.
- The County should take the lead on this project in order for it to be most effective.
- Fully funded, the project could be completed by the fall.

### Board Discussion

#### Supervisor Hazard:

- Working with a number of different agencies as a round-table group to identify the recreational opportunities and how people access them. An inventory has been a goal.
- This proposal assists the County in taking the lead. It is worthwhile to move forward, but the proposal needs to go back to the round-table partners to discuss funding (the County should not provide full funding).
- The Board should decide whether or not to conceptually support the project.

#### Supervisor Bauer:

- The MCRAT is a powerful tool. Possibly the GIS department could assist and money may be available through the blueprint plan process. Scott Burns: Can look into this.
- Bauer suggested approving Phase 1 and seeking partners for Phases 2 and 3. Wentworth: Phase 1 will put existing data in one place, which can be used right away in the blueprint process and the 395 corridor. [Eastern Central California Blueprint and Corridor Enhancement Plan for 395 to consider the corridor's future in terms of economics, tourism and viability.] Phase 2 would make the project more complete.
- MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo can bring capacity to the project.

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Supervisor Hunt:

- The Budget will require partnering.
- Agrees that the County would be the best home for the project.

Supervisor Farnetti:

- The project is a valuable tool and the County should take lead.
- Would like to know what Mono County can bring to the table in terms of capacity. Also wants a hard budget figure and wants to know the level of financial support from other groups (i.e. Forest Service, BLM, and recreation groups) before committing the County.

Supervisor Reid:

- With no other participation, the County would fund \$86,000.

\*\*\*\*\*

LUNCH

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**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

*No one spoke.*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- 13a) Presentation of Information by Geothermal Education and Outreach (GEO) (**Dave Harvey and Tony Barrett**) - GEO representatives will present information to the Board regarding their long and short-term goals relating to their mission "to educate the general public about the viability and value of geothermal energy as a renewable resource".

**M09-99 Action:** Direct staff to work collaboratively with GEO to move the project forward.

**Hazard/Farnetti, 5-0**

Tony Barrett:

- Presented the concept and goals of the project.
- Hope to have the interim facility operational by the end of the summer.
- Would like to partner with the County on the project.
- Per an arrangement with the geothermal plant, GEO will provide tours of the plant.
- Building a relationship with an environmental group in Newport Beach (Environmental Nature Center); a member of their board will be on the board of GEO.

William Glassley: PowerPoint presentation outlined the GEO vision.

- The Eastern Sierra region has great potential to produce geothermal energy, which is poised to make a major impact by becoming economically comparable to fossil fuels.
- If geothermal is developed, it can produce most of the energy needed at half the cost.
- Programs need to be developed to provide universal access to infrastructure. GEO would enable the development and transformation of the energy market in a significant way by providing a place for thoughtful discussion, research, and training.

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- Three target projects: 1) geothermal applications for improving water conservation; 2) self-sufficient communities; 3) low-tech geothermal for the developing world.
- Have organized a world-class advisory panel, and have established several relationships with industry and the academic community; need to acquire a diverse funding base.
- Benefits of the GEO project include: providing a world class visitors' center to attract people travelling through the area; offering public education about the science of geothermal energy; attracting eco-tourism; providing a location for field courses for schools and academia; returning rate payer funds to the community; establishing the foundation for new industries (such as teacher training, aqua culture and greenhouse development); increasing destination visits from the "green" community; increasing investment from the renewable energy development community; training the next generation of renewable energy researchers; becoming a place for energy technology training; and establishing technology industries for renewable energy management, development and control.

Dave Harvey:

- The Mammoth area has the opportunity to create a cottage industry around geothermal energy; the tools necessary are available.
- Mono County area needs additional attractions, and geothermal energy provides this opportunity. The County has many geological aspects, which would provide for eco-tourist programs.
- Believes the project can be sustained through the green-house program, conferencing program, association with Cerro Coso College, and sale of renewable energy materials; intend to concentrate on how the project will pay for itself.

Bruce Woodward: Gave a visual presentation of the proposed interim visitors' center. The interim building will be about 3,600 square feet. The permanent structure will be about 30,000 square feet, which includes the greenhouse (11,000 square feet).

#### Answered Board Questions

- In the process of finalizing a long-term lease of the property.
- In the process of raising funds privately; will contact several foundations about funding and will hold a fundraiser at the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach.
- Working with transportation organizations to accommodate visitors.
- Deep drilling concept is to go deeper into the crust (4-6 kilometers).

#### Board Comments

Supervisor Hazard:

- This is a good project.
- Will have to work with code and environmental restrictions.

Supervisor Reid:

- The entire region has very interesting geological features. The travertine area outside Bridgeport would be of interest for field trips and tours.
- A greenhouse could be commercially viable if the commodities are chosen carefully. Southern Oregon has a very successful geothermal greenhouse program.

#### Staff Comments

Dan Lyster:

- The first step is meeting the permit requirements for the site.

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Dave Wilbrecht:

- The project needs to be broad enough to recognize the potential of the County. Mary Booher is assisting with CDBG grants.

ADJOURN: 2:24 p.m.

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